GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:122
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2006
FTA WITH ASEAN COUNTRIES .
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Indian Association of South East Asian Nations Free Trade Agreement is in stalemate;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor;

(c) Whether more than 10 countries trading block have hardened its stance seeking more concessions from India;

(d) If so, whether this issue came up for discussion during the last round of negotiations with ASEAN;

(e) If so, the stand taken by Government in this regard;

(f) Whether India is bound to cover 80% trade of all the ASEAN Members; and

(g) If so, the present position of the agreement and time by which final negotiations are likely to be made in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) Negotiations between ASEAN and India for a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) are currently focussed on proposed liberalisation in trade in goods.

(c)to(e) The negotiators from ASEAN and India met recently to further discuss these issues.

(f)&(g) India has offered preferential tariff arrangement for 80% of imports from ASEAN in the proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The negotiations are still on and as per the present time schedule, the ASEAN India FTA is to be implemented from 1st January 2007.